

VOTE  
7/2/19

**TESTIMONIAL  
RESOLUTIONS  
AND SPECIAL  
PRIVILEGE**

# Testimonial Resolution

## Douglas J. Diggs

In Memoriam

### WHEREAS

Douglas Jackson Diggs was born in Detroit in 1964 to Anna Diggs Taylor, the state's first African American female federal judge, and Charles C. Diggs Jr., who became the first African American elected to Congress from Michigan. His stepfather, S. Martin Taylor, former head of New Detroit and later, Vice President at DTE Energy was a prominent and caring figure in his life. Diggs credits all his parents for his work ethic and his sense of civic responsibility that became his way of life; **and**

### WHEREAS

Douglas Diggs graduated from the University of Detroit High School and Wayne State University. He also received his Masters of Business Administration from Davenport University. Throughout his career he was focused on growing the economy of Detroit. He served as Detroit's Planning and Development Director and was Director of Business and Economic Development for Detroit Renaissance; **and**

### WHEREAS

Douglas Diggs was the catalyst for a variety of programs to boost minority business development in the City including the Detroit Community Loan Fund, Michigan Statewide Minority Business Development Center and the Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute. Most recently, he was responsible for creating and implementing the Business and Workforce Participation and Outreach Plan for the Little Caesars Arena and The District Detroit to ensure that Detroit businesses and residents participate in the construction of the project; **and**

### WHEREAS

Douglas Diggs was the President and CEO of the Diggs Group Heritage developed and implemented numerous economic development projects in the city. More important to him was the work he did to create workforce opportunities for Detroit residents. He loved Detroit and saw it as his mission to create opportunities for minority businesses to engage and thrive in the city's growth; **and**

### WHEREAS

Douglas Diggs was a devoted husband and father. He married the love of his life Dr. Shauna Ryder Diggs. This union was blessed with two daughters; Jaqueline Exyie Diggs and Alexandra Anna Diggs; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

### RESOLVED

**That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and Detroit City Council** expresses their deepest condolences and share their sympathy in the loss of your loved one, **Douglas J. Diggs**. Your loss is heaven's gain. May God bless you and comfort you during this time and always.

*Mary Sheffield*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM  
*Janice Boy*  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
*Scott Benson*  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
*Raquel Castañeda-Torres*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Brenda Jones*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Duke Ralston*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

May 25, 2019

DATE

## Testimonial Resolution

## YVONNE STOKES

Fisher Magnet Lower Academy Principal

## WHEREAS

Yvonne Stokes was raised in Hamtramck, Michigan and educated in the Hamtramck Public School System until high school. As a high school student she attended Cass Technical High School where she grew as a person and made life-long friends; **and**

## WHEREAS

Yvonne Stokes' professional education was obtained at Eastern Michigan University where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education, with a ZA Endorsement in Early Childhood Education and a Masters of Arts Degree in Educational Leadership. She started her journey in education as a teacher at Howe Elementary School winning mini-grants for a classroom library, hands-on science center and a classroom computer; **and**

## WHEREAS

Yvonne Stokes also traveled around the city with the Goods School Rappers, a student group that spread positive messages about staying in school and doing your best. The student rappers received "Spirit of Detroit" awards for their positive influence. Her work in developing the "L-Team" and "Lady L's" boys and girls mentoring programs pointed many students in the right direction and provided college exposure as a seed for future career possibilities; **and**

## WHEREAS

Yvonne Stokes first Principal assignment was at Wilkins Elementary/Middle School on the eastside of Detroit in 2010. It was named a low achieving school. However, she rallied her staff to develop a plan to move achievement upward. By August 2013, Wilkins was no longer a low performing school. Her dedication and commitment to helping students achieve educational goals is unparalleled; **and**

## WHEREAS

Yvonne Stokes in November of 2013 was named the interim Principal of Fisher Magnet Lower Academy where she has since remained Principal. After thirty years of service she will retire on June 30, 2019; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

## RESOLVED

**That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and the Detroit City Council recognizes Yvonne Stokes** for her contribution as an educator for the children of the City of Detroit. We appreciate you for molding our next generation. May God continue to bless you in your future endeavors.

*Brenda Jones*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Mary Sheffield*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM  
*James H. Tate*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Dabe O. L.*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Raquel Castañeda-Tópy*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*James H. Tate*  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
*James H. Tate*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

June 12, 2019

DATE

*Testimonial Resolution***DONNA MICHELLE WHEELER**

August 10, 1955 – June 2, 2019

In Memoriam

**WHEREAS**

Donna Michelle Wheeler was born to the union of Ed Franklin and Rubye Mae Baker in Detroit, Michigan on August 10, 1955. She was the second for four children; **and**

**WHEREAS**

Donna Michelle Wheeler received her education from the Detroit Public School system graduating from Southeastern High School. She furthered her education and received a Medical Assistant certificate from Crockett Adult Education. After graduation she was employed as a Teacher's Aide at Carsten Elementary School. Later she began a career as a manager for McDonalds where she was honored for her excellence in customer service and leadership skills; **and**

**WHEREAS**

Donna Michelle Wheeler was a devoted wife and dedicated mother and grandmother. She married the love of her life Pastor James Wheeler in 1977. This union was blessed with three beautiful children: Terri, Lamont and Dionica; **and**

**WHEREAS**

Donna Michelle Wheeler was a faithful woman of God. In 1984 she received Jesus Christ as her personal savior and was baptized by the late Pastor R.W. McClendon at First Progressive Baptist Church. There she grew in faith and fellowship. She joyfully served on the Progressive Usher Board until health issues arose. Afterwards she served as a member of the Mother's Board. She possessed a giving spirit. Her passion was bestowing gifts upon relatives, friends and church members; **and**

**WHEREAS**

It being the will of our Lord to call our beloved home after a long life of service, Donna Michelle Wheeler transitioned from this life, from labor to reward on June 2, 2019;  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and Detroit City Council** expresses their deepest condolences and share their sympathy in the loss of your loved one, *Donna Michelle Wheeler*. Your loss is heaven's gain. May God bless you and comfort you during this time and always.

*Mary Sheffield*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM  
*James S. Benson*  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
*Scott Benson*  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
*Raquel Castañeda-Tópy*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Brenda Jones*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Ruby R. R. R.*  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
*[Signature]*  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
*[Signature]*  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
*[Signature]*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

June 8, 2019

DATE



# Testimonial Resolution

## GREATER ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH

### 40<sup>TH</sup> Church Anniversary

- WHEREAS** With humble beginnings and a deeply rooted commitment to growing the body of Christ, **Greater St. Paul Baptist Church** is celebrating 40 years of service in the City of Detroit; **and**
- WHEREAS** Greater St. Paul Baptist Church started as a vision given to Reverend Ricardo Bartlett, Sr. and was launched in 1979. The first charter members included families such as: the Bartletts, Burns, Harris, Howze and Means. The first service was officially conducted on Sunday, February 19, 1979 at 2431 East Grand Boulevard in Detroit; **and**
- WHEREAS** Greater St. Paul Baptist Church by September 1979 under the leadership of Pastor Bartlett the church raised over sixty-five thousand dollars and purchased 7203 East Harper in Detroit. More blessings were poured over the congregation as the church started ministering to the Harper-Frontenac community. They started outreach projects such as the Senior Citizens Meal Program, a Food Co-op, a Senior Citizens Recreational Program, Youth-Oriented ministries, a Radio Broadcast, and a Community Fun Festival and Carnival; **and**
- WHEREAS** Greater St. Paul Church grew spiritually and in membership. On Sunday, November 11, 1984 the congregation was led to their new church home at 17300 Chandler Park Drive where the ministry continued. Currently the church is located at 15325 Gratiot Avenue. They have been there since Sunday, May 2, 1999. Their membership increased to over one thousand faithful citizens; **and**
- WHEREAS** Greater St. Paul Church under the leadership of Reverend Ricardo Bartlett, Sr. created ministries to address the needs of the community and congregation while located on Gratiot Avenue. They have Christian Education, a Child Development Center for ages six weeks to 5 years, Michigan School Readiness for four year olds, a Radio Broadcast, Tutoring services, Youth Ministry, Giving Tree, Foreign Missions for Africa, Macomb Montessori Academy, and Substance Abuse and Crisis Management; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and Detroit City Council congratulates Greater St. Paul Baptist Church on your 40<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary. May God continue to bless your endeavors as you work to grow the body of Christ.

*Mary Sheffield*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

*Sam L. Brown*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Scott Benson*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Raquel Castañeda-Joppy*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Brenda Jones*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Dale G. Lewis*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Arden*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*J. D. F.*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

June 8, 2019

DATE

*Testimonial Resolution*  
**Plymouth United Church of Christ**  
*100<sup>TH</sup> Church Anniversary*

**WHEREAS**

With humble beginnings and a deeply rooted commitment to growing the body of Christ, **Plymouth United Church of Christ** is celebrating 100 years of service in the City of Detroit; **and**

**WHEREAS**

Plymouth United Church of Christ was founded May 4, 1919 as the first African American Congregational Church in the state of Michigan. It was started by the nine founding members Deacon Edwards M. Hale; Mrs. Carrie L. Thompson; Mrs. Alize Harris; Mr. M.C. Graham; Mr. Farley; Mr. Joseph Shannon; Miss Thelma Benjamin; Mrs. Thomas Benjamin and Mr. Stewart Thompson; **and**

**WHEREAS**

Plymouth United Church of Christ from 1919 to 1957 served a multitude of people under the previous leadership of its ministers. It continued to grow spiritually and in membership under the leadership of Dr. Rev. Nicholas Hood II. He was a humanitarian and activist. He was the Senior Minister of Plymouth United Church of Christ from 1958 to 1985. In 1963 he began a housing ministry that led to the development of the Medical Center Courts apartments for low to moderate-income families. In 1975 he began construction on the Medical Center Village Apartments, town houses and senior building. His love and willingness raised the community and Plymouth to new heights; **and**

**WHEREAS**

Plymouth United Church of Christ elected Rev. Nicholas Hood III after his father's resignation. Under his leadership many new members have joined the church, and the involvement of young people have increased. His outlook has been ecumenical and he has borrowed from other denominations practices and introduced a return to racial roots through such practices as annual revivals, voluntary baptism by immersion in the Detroit River; **and**

**WHEREAS**

Plymouth United Church of Christ has been a source of spiritual support and encouragement for numerous people who have heeded the call to the ministry. The list of sons and daughters of Plymouth who have been ordained is long and impressive. Rev. Nicholas Hood III continues the tradition to serve the community through membership in numerous civic organizations. His leadership has extended the church's missionary outreach to include a personal relationship with several African nations; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and Detroit City Council** congratulates Plymouth United Church of Christ on your 100<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary. We thank you for not only making a difference in the lives of the members, but also the community at large. May God continue to bless your endeavors as you work to grow the body of Christ.

*Brenda Jones*  
 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Mary Sheffield*  
 COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

*Debra G. L.*  
 COUNCIL MEMBER

*James D. G.*  
 COUNCIL MEMBER

*Chadley*  
 COUNCIL MEMBER

*Raquel Castañeda-Jópez*  
 COUNCIL MEMBER

*James*  
 COUNCIL MEMBER

*James*  
 COUNCIL MEMBER

May 19, 2019

DATE